

**Kachel 1 Talking about generations****Tips for your mediation notes**

Aspects	Tips for your notes
<b>1</b> What is the communicative situation? Why is it necessary to mediate sth.?	<b>Tip:</b> The article that your mediation is based on is in German and since your addressee is from an English-speaking country, he might not understand what the article says. You present the main idea of the article via email.
<b>2</b> Who is the addressee (friend, colleague, boss, etc.)?	<b>Tip:</b> Even though you do not know the speaker, he is more or less of your age.
<b>3</b> What is your role as a mediator?	<b>Tip:</b> Keep in mind that a mediator must always be neutral when it comes to the presentation of facts. Also, make sure to keep textual distance to signal that you mediate sb. else's view, e. g. as indicated by "according to the author, ..." or "the text/author says that ...".
<b>4</b> How formal does your text have to be? What are other conventions you must pay attention to?	<b>Tip:</b> For tips on the level of formality, have a look at the field "addressee" again.
<b>5</b> What is/are the task instruction(s) ( <i>Operatoren</i> )? What exactly are you supposed to do?	<b>Tip: present</b> = give a concise account of the main points or ideas of a text clarifying culture-related aspects if necessary
<b>6</b> What content should you focus on? What do you have to include, what can be left out?	<b>Tip:</b> A mediation is not a summary where you just go through the text in chronological order – the mediation task always has a certain focus, and you should select the information in the order of the task, leaving out anything that is not relevant for the addressee.
<b>7</b> Are there any idiomatic terms, proverbs or cultural concepts which need further explanation?	<b>Tip:</b> You might want to do some research on the popularity of "Fridays for Future" in the USA.

**Kachel 1 Talking about generations****How to mediate a message**

In a globalized world, cross-cultural and cross-linguistic encounters, whether in the world of work or while travelling the globe, are a daily occurrence. However, not everybody speaks English as well as German, which is why those people who do often serve as intermediators between the different languages and cultures (intercultural speaker). They help people from different countries to understand each other by **mediating** contents between speakers of German and English.

Thereby, **mediation** is a highly complex process that involves not only the capability of mediating between two languages but also between two cultures. Hence, one must not only understand one's own cultural background but also that of the interlocutor.

**Mediation** describes the process of transforming a written or oral text from one language into another whereupon the content has to be reorganized corresponding to the situation and the interlocutor's needs.

**Factors that determine the content, register, style and complexity of the mediated text:**

- 1 The interlocutor's cultural background and reason of interest,
- 2 your personal background,
- 3 your knowledge about your own as well as the interlocutor's culture,
- 4 the context of your encounter and the foundation of your relationship.

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**Vocabulary help**

Intercultural messages can be transported both from English to German or the other way round. When you are asked to communicate a German 'text' into English, you may find the following vocabulary list useful. Keep in mind that specific genres also have a specific use of vocabulary and not all phrases are appropriate for all text types. This gives you a general list of words for mediation tasks.

formal introduction	written text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The text was published in (<i>year</i>) by (<i>name</i>) at/in (<i>place</i>)</li> <li>• The text deals with ...</li> <li>• The article focusses on ...</li> <li>• The essay puts an emphasis on ...</li> <li>• In the blog, the writer is concerned with the topic of ...</li> <li>• The object (information board, train timetable, warning sign) presents information on ...</li> </ul>
	oral text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The speech (<i>title</i>) was given at/in (<i>place</i>), on (<i>date</i>) by (<i>name</i>)</li> <li>• The speaker talks about ...</li> <li>• The speaker inquires after ...</li> <li>• The speaker is interested in ...</li> <li>• The speaker is presents his opinion on ...</li> <li>• He/She concentrates on ... in his/her speech ...</li> <li>• In the interview/dialogue, the speakers exchange their ideas On/share their views on ...</li> <li>• The speakers are speaking in their role as experts for the topic Of ...</li> <li>• The speakers were invited to talk about ... in their role as ...</li> </ul>
transition		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This speech/video/advert was produced to underline/show/highlight...</li> <li>• The author/speaker is of the opinion ...</li> <li>• The texts results from the need to ...</li> <li>• The main aim of this text is to ...</li> </ul>
phrases for giving additional information		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The concept of ... needs some further explanation.</li> <li>• The term/object is specific to the German/English culture and derives from ...</li> <li>• This can be explained by referring to ...</li> <li>• This follows from the fact that ...</li> <li>• In Germany/Britain/USA/Australia/... this is an institution which ...</li> <li>• The before mentioned term is often used when referring to ...</li> <li>• This is a culturally loaded term and can be understood as ...</li> </ul>
phrases for paraphrasing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a German/English saying for ...</li> <li>• There is no word for that in English but it is a proverb for highlighting ...</li> <li>• To put it differently, ...</li> <li>• To put it in other words ...</li> <li>• Another term for it is ...</li> <li>• An equivalent for this term is ...</li> <li>• The opposite of ... is ...</li> </ul>